Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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ONEG SHABBAT THIS FRIDAY NIGHT

The first Oneg Shabbat of the current season will be held at the Congregation Aguoath Achim, Rideau St., this Friday at 8:30 p.m. The Zemiroth will be conduoted by Cantor A. Weiss, while the services in English will be read by Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman. The sermon topic for that evening will be, "We Begin Again."

The following weeks the sermon topics will be:

November 21—"The Endless Danger."

November 28—"The Rungs of the Ladder." (A. Z. A. Sabbath).

December 5—"On the Road."

December 12—"A Ceiling on Spiritual Values?"

The Vaad Ha'Ir sponsors these religious gatherings for the benefit of all the Jewish residents in the city, especially the younger men and women.

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If you have not yet made your reservation for the Talmud Torah dinner to be held at the Talmud Torah hall, Sunday evening, November 11th, please call Mrs. L. Petegorsky at 3-7325 or Mr. Litvack at 4-3264.

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L. Petegorsky Re-elected

At the 3rd annual convention of the Mizrachi organization of Canada, held in Toronto Hesvan 11-12 (Nov. 1-2), Mr. Leon Petegorsky of Ottawa was re-elected as national president. Among the resolutions adopted were those that called upon Great Britain to carry out the pledge of the Balfour Declaration to establish the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine on both sides of the Jordan; and to allow a Jewish army in Eretz Israel to fight as an ally of the democratic countries. The convention also accepted a national quota of no less than $35,000.00 for the coming year.

In Memoriam

LILLIAN FREIMAN
HESVAN 1, 5701

OTTAWA MEN OVERSEAS

The chairman of the Bnai Brith War Services Committee, Magistrate A. Lieff, advises us of the following list of Jewish men overseas, in addition to the 36 whose names appeared in the High Holiday issue of the Talmud Torah Bulletin:

P.O. J. Aaron
Sgt. Mark Abramson
Pte. R. Applebaum
Staff Sgt. S. Applebaum
Pte. L. Baguslovsky
Gunner Diamond
Pte. P. Feron
W. Fisher
Sgt. F. Florence
S.Q.M. S. Kronick
Lance Cpl. M. Litwack
Lieut. H. Margette
W.O. 2 M. Monson
Pte. L. Osterer
Sgt. D. Rosenes
David Shapiro

If you know of any other Jewish men whose names have not appeared in either of these two lists, kindly call Magistrate Lieff at 2-0217.

The War Services Committee is also anxious to have a complete list of all Ottawa men in the active forces and will therefore appreciate receiving information from the families in the city about their boys who have enlisted.

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SHABBOS CANDLES

November 14, 1941	5:18 p.m.
November 21, 1941	5:11 p.m.
November 28, 1941	5:06 p.m.
December 5, 1941	5:03 p.m.
December 12, 1941	5:01 p.m.

JEWISH CHAPLAIN TO SPEAK AT TALMUD TORAH DINNER

Capt. S. Gershon Levi, the first Jewish Chaplain in the history of the Canadian Armed Forces, will be the principal speaker at the annual Talmud Torah dinner, to be held Sunday, November 16th, 6:30 p.m., at the Talmud Torah Hall.

Before entering upon his duties as chaplain, Capt. Levi was the rabbi in charge of educational activities at the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue of Montreal. In this work he won for himself the universal respect of the Jews in that city. His new duties have brought him into contact with thousands of Jewish soldiers, sailors and airmen in Canada's fighting forces throughout the Dominion.

The son of the well-known communal leader Mr. P. Levi of Toronto, Capt. Levi received his early education in Canada, and completed his rabbinical studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He also spent a year of study in Eretz Israel. He earned his academic degrees at the University of Toronto and Columbia University.

Mr. A. J. Freiman, president of the Vaad Ha'Ir, which is the parent body of the Ottawa Talmud Torah, will act as chairman. The Talmud Torah Ladies Auxiliary will be in charge of the dinner.

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Oscar Z. Fasman, Rabbi

A. J. Freiman ..... President
C. Caplan ..... Vice-president
Thomas Sachs ..... Vice-President
E. Weiner ..... Treasurer
B. Pearl ..... Hon. Secretary
L. Harry Goldman ..... General Secretary

AN INVESTMENT THAT LASTS

In our rapidly changing world we have very few items left that we can call a "sure thing." Our confidence in the established ways of life has been rudely shaken by the events of the past two years. All the more reason, therefore, must we remain true to those endeavours, small in number but great in reward, that can be relied upon to insure for us a richer life ahead.

Among those endeavours let us recognize the towering importance of careful educational planning. In particular, we Jews have learned through long and conclusive experience that we have no form of group insurance more effective than that in which we can give to all our children an understanding of what constitutes the spiritual treasure of Israel. When the Jews of tomorrow are properly equipped with both informaton and loyalty to work for the betterment of our situation, the Jews of today are justified in feeling that at least one certainty will uphold us in the years that come. Should every other investment made in the security of our people suffer, or even completely fail, we would nevertheless have the satisfaction of knowing that our investment in the Talmud Torah is a lasting one; for there will be the men and the women whose interests in everything Jewish will drive them to create new instruments of salvation. If, on the other hand, we shall have a generation of mighty institutions, but lacking in man-power, how can they hope to function ?

The Talmud Torah in Ottawa, with an educational system that brings pride to the heart of all who are familiar with it, starts its annual campaign November 16th for the financial assistance that guarantees its maintenance. Let the contributors think in terms of the investment, rather than of expense; and they will no doubt realize that their share in protecting the Jewish way of life and the ideals of the Torah gives them more than full value for their money—gives them, indeed, a superlative "sure thing."

TWO GREAT JEWS PASS

Within a brief span of four days Israel lost in recent weeks two of its most heroic figures. In the Holy Land, Menachem Mendel Ussishkin, President of the Jewish National Fund and Chairman of the Actions Committee of the World Zionist Organization, passed away in his 79th year; and in Washington, D.C., Louis Dembitz Brandeis, the first Jew to sit upon the bench of the Supreme Court, passed away in his 85th year.

Both men represented in their persons and in their careers the living answer to the two forces that might weaken the Jewish people in the struggle to survive. Ussishkin was that gifted "iron man" who refused to let the fatalism of the Galuth psychology deter his people from taking an active part in solving their own problem. While millions of our brothers accepted as inevitable the sorrows and the pains of being forever a minority in every portion of the earth, and while they therefore meekly bowed their heads to every evil decree, he was in the forefront of the active battle to establish the Jewish nation upon its soil. His approach was stubborn, relentless, aggressive. Nothing unfavourable was to be yielded to, because the will is supreme. While others, therefore, hoped and dreamed or submitted, he acted, laboured, warred—and accomplished. He proved to his people that, if they knew their way and earnestly desired it, they could have their way.

In an utterly different environment, Brandeis dynamically gave the lie to the view that one cannot be a good citizen if he is a champion of Jewish nationalism. While carving out for himself an immortal niche in the history of American jurisprudence, and earning for himself the undying gratitude of the progressive thinkers in the United States, he proudly espoused the cause of Zionism, and he brought method and prestige to a movement that was immature and struggling. His reverence for the prophetic ideals united his Jewishness with his Americanism into one harmonious whole. After his biography became a public possession the thesis of assimilationists was no longer tenable.

From the blending of these two lives we may see the course that Jewish destiny must follow; namely, to carry on the ideals of Jewish nationalism in the spirit of complete faith that we must make and win our own future, and in the unshakable conviction that Judaism ennobles democratic citizenship. Israel will make concrete its thankfulness for the privilege of having enjoyed such leadership by giving all its energies to the fulfillment of the projects that Ussishkin and Brandeis hallowed.

Their memory is for a blessing.

OUR FORTHCOMING TALMUD TORAH CAMPAIGN

In order that we may execute the duties entrusted to us of managing and supervising our Ottawa Talmud Torah successfully and in a dignified manner, we, the board, are obliged to appeal to our Jewish community at large for financial support.

The sums of money raised through our annual campaign must be sufficient not only to help balance our budget, which, due to our expanded program, is the heaviest in our history, but also to provide sufficient funds to pay for the upkeep of our Talmud Torah building, which, thus far, serves as a communal center for all the cultural and social group activities and functions in our community.

It is needless for us to stress and reiterate the urgency and importance of our cause, the purpose of which is to implant into our coming generation the fundamental principles, essential teachings and dogmas of our religion, culture, history and civilization. For those among us who possess the instinct and will to survive and continue to live on as a people, our cause and aims are obvious and imperative.

Significant for us as a people is also the fact that whenever we are to answer the fateful call of saving from total annihilation our unfortunate brethren in war-stricken Europe, and however great our task may be, one thing is certain beyond doubt; that is, our ranks must be spiritually united—a unity which should spring from our deep observation and understanding of our prophetic mission and high ethical and moral conceptions and teachings.

Here again our Talmud Torah, the cradle and the very foundation of our existence as a people, must be looked upon and treated by all our community-conscious citizens with the unfaltering devotion and sacred inspiration which it justly merits and deserves.

The measure of your response to our appeal for funds to carry on will demonstrate your true interest in this most worthy cause, so important to us all.

MOSES LOEB,
Chairman of the Ottawa
Talmud Torah Board.

A YESHIVAH IN CANADA

Everybody knows that a European town with a Yeshivah was quite normal, but the arrival in Canada of European Yeshivah scholars to establish an institution of advanced Talmudical studies in Montreal creates a unique event. Dominion Jewry expects a marked intensification of spiritual life as a consequence of establishing such an academy. As soon as the fifty students on their way from Shanghai join the thirty already here, the plan will be put into effect.

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RABBI MAY BE AWAY IN JANUARY

Progress on the new synagogue, Talmud Torah and community centre in Tulsa, Oklahoma,, is moving at a rapid pace, and it is therefore probable that Rabbi and Mrs. Oscar Z. Fasman, who were instrumental in having the movement begun in their former congregation, will travel to Tulsa the latter part of next January as guests of honor at the dedication. The members of our community are kindly asked to keep in mind that the Rabbi might be absent from the city at that time.

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DIETARY NOTES

ABOUT SALTING MEAT

The rabbi calls to the attention of those who purchase Kosher meat that they will be well advised to do their own salting ("Kashering") because the butchers sometimes have difficulty in fulfilling the details of the process. Where there are children, there is, moreover, great educational value for them to see how meat is "Kashered." Finally should a woman move to a city where the markets did not furnish that service, she ought to be personally familiar with what she must do herself.

* * *

VEGETABLE SHORTENING

Among the problems that arise for observant Jews out of the war crisis is the fact that it has become increasingly difficult for the manufacturers of vegetable shortening in Canada to obtain the basic edible oil ingredients for their product, so that many of the producers of vegetable shortening are now using tallow or animal fat in making their product. The government laws require that a shortening prepared in this way must not use in its label the words "pure vegetable." The Montreal Council of Rabbis, however, advises those who want to be doubly certain of what they are buying to purchase only the oil and shortening products that come with a hechsher.

Young People's League Organized for 1941-42 Season

The first meeting of the Young People's League took place at the Talmud Torah Hall on Thursday, October 23rd, when plans were made known for an active season. In addition, Mr. Ernest Bourneman spoke most interestingly on the "Social Aspects of American Music," which were further interpreted by playing typical recordings.

This year's President, Phillip Stuchen, indicated that the meetings of the Y.P.L. would be held every two weeks and on Sundays preferably if a suitable meeting place could be arranged.

In addition o the usual contributions by members in the way of debates and open forums, certain outstanding speakers—local and out-of-town—have been secured for later meetings; entertainment and social activities have likewise been planned.

Rabbi Fasman has kindly offered to contribute a news summary at each meeting.

An important feature of the League's activities will be a War Effort Committee under Chairman Bert Loeb. In addition to out-of-town members of the Armed Forces being invited to all meetings, efforts to contribute otherwise will be made. War savings certificates will be raffled at each meeting.

A play is planned with Miss Marjorie Margosches kindly offering to direct the production, the proceeds of which will go to our war effort. Interested members are requested to communicate with Miss Margosches (phone 3-6673).

Out-of-towners and new arrivals to Ottawa are especially invited to attend Y.P.L. meetings. Former members are always welcome. Make it a practice to attend Y.P.L. regularly.

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BLANKETS FOR RED CROSS

The advent of winter has made it necessary for the Red Cross to issue its appeal to all citizens for blankets for Britain. One may give a new or used blanket, or two dollars ($2.00) in cash to buy a blanket of good weight. Notices were posted in the Synagogues, and you may respond by bringing your blanket or cash to the Hadassah Sewing Room at the Talmud Torah.

—V—

OUR MAILING LIST

The mailing list of the Bulletin is as accurate as the information available. It can be made more accurate and give better service, if those who have moved recently will call the rabbi's office 3-8698. We shall also appreciate learning the names and addresses of newcomers to the city.

THE NEW CHILD'S SIDDUR

A novel idea in a Siddur (Jewish Prayer Book) has just appeared under the auspices of the Hebrew Theological College Rabbinical Association. Called "Sidduri", (My Prayer Book) this volume contains only the essential parts of the weekday and the Sabbath Hebrew Services on the theory that the child in the early years of his Hebrew education cannot be expected to read through the entire lengthy services for adults. Rather than give the complete translation for the prayers included, which would make difficult reading for the average youngster, the Sidduri gives one or two brief English sentences to summarize the main idea in each paragraph. Thus the child is encouraged not only to pray in Hebrew, but to know the central thought of his every prayer.

The whole idea is admittedly an experiment in Jewish education, and had some of its origins in a series of discussions carried on between Rabbi Fasman and a former prnncipal of the Talmud Torah in Tulsa, Rabbi Harold P. Smith. The latter did the actual work, in collaboration with a few of his colleagues in Chicago.

If you are interested in obtaining a volume for your own child, kindly get in touch with the Rabbi.

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HELP REBUILD LIVES !

There are still hundreds of young Jewish boys in the interned refugee camps of Canada who will be released and granted their freedom, if individuals will agree to sponsor them as students in this country. Some of the most brilliant and most gifted boys of Europe are waiting for the opportunity to continue their educational career, which gives great promise for society at large. You can help them by undertaking to be responsible for their maintenance and schooling for one year or more, giving to the government a pledge to spend, if necessary, up to $1,000.00 for this purpose. It is clearly understood that it may cost much less than that, particularly if you have a room in your home to offer the boy.

If you are interested in this most worthy of causes, please get in touch with the rabbi.

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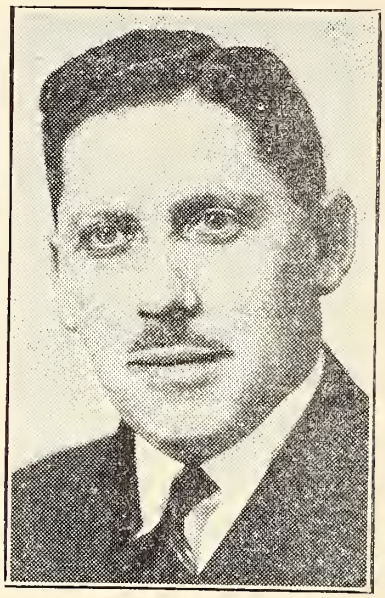
HIGH HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

As we go to press, we learn that the spontaneous campaign for War Services held in the synagogues on the High Holidays has completed cash collections on 98.3 per cent. of the pledges, and the balance is considered assured. The proper presentation to the government will be made in the next week or two.



OTTAWA ORGANIZES ALL JEWISH AIR CADET UNIT

The Jewish Community of Ottawa has added another orchid to its already blossoming war effort by organizing the first Air Cadet Flight in Ottawa. This group is already functioning with some forty young men between the ages of fifteen and eighteen meeting regularly each Monday night and receiving instruction in all matters pertaining to Air Force activity. Samuel Berger, K.C. is Chairman of the Flight Committee and Bertram Loeb is Officer Commanding the Unit.

The B'Nai Brith War Services Committee has provided funds to have our cadets supplied with Air Force uniforms. Since some funds are yet available, and the group can accommodate about ten additional boys, it is requested that any others wishing to join, do so at once by attending next Monday night's parade at the Talmud Torah.

The Flight Committee wishes to enlighten any skeptical parents about their son's enrollment in the Air Cadet League. The boys are definitely not enlisting in the Air Force or in any branch of the armed forces. The whole idea of Air Cadet work is to train these boys in all phases of aviation work so that if and when they do decide to join the Air Force, or any branch of the military services, they will be better trained and more qualified than the average young man.

—— V ——

Is the date Recorded ?

The members of our community are reminded once again to notify the rabbi well in advance of the date that they expect to hold a religious ceremony at which his services will be desired, such as a wedding or the unveiling of a monument. A Bar Mitzvah should be registered no less than three months in advance.

HY BESSIN NEW LEADER

The Hanoar Study and Breakfast Club regrets the fact that its popular director, Herman Roodman, will be unable to act as leader this year, because of his duties in the C.O.T.C. The Club feels fortunate, on the other hand, that Mr. Hy Bessin has accepted the Rabbi's invitation to direct its activities. The new leader will develop an active outdoor program in addition to the regular cultural activities.

The Club held its first Sunday morning meeting of the season at the Congregation Adath Jeshurun, King Edward Ave., on October 19th. About forty boys were in attendance to give the first meeting an excellent start.

"V" was shown to be a constant theme in Tefillin, when the Rabbi pointed out how the "shin" is a double V, and how the "rezuah" winds three short strokes around the middle finger and one long stroke thereafter. Likewise, the V appears several times in the "rezuah shel Rosh."

—— V ——

JEWISH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The children of the Ottawa Talmud Torah are showing great interest in the new project of a Yahaduth Army. By a system of points and credits they will be able to earn a Mogen David for every advancement in rank in the Y-Army. The race is on to see how many Y-Sergeants, Y-Captains, Y-Majors, and even Y Generals will appear.

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The attendance in the first High School Hebrew class under the instruction of Mr. B. Kravetz is reported highly satisfactory by the Talmud Torah principal, Mr. I. Lieff. Despite the fact that these boys and girls now carry a heavy program of studies at High School they are making every effort to be regular in their Talmud Torah attendance.

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Enrolment at the Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School has grown so rapidly that the kindergarten class of Miss Esther Cohen has been divided up, and Mrs. M. Zbar now instructs the youngest class of all.

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Of great interest to the pupils of the Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School is the new Menorah, whose editorial board is drawn from the student body, and whose director is the conscientious Mr. Lawrence Bilsky. An additional stimulus to scholarship has come in the announcement that besides the B'Nai Brith prizes, there will be available this year the Jennie Glickman Memorial Medal, presented by Dr. A. Glickman, and the Tarantour Scholarship Awards, presented by Mr. Morris Tarantour.